

February 17, 2015

Dear Members of the Veterans Committee:

My name is Sylvester L. Salcedo. I'm from Orange. I'm a military veteran having served in the United States Navy, right after graduating from college, from October, 1978 to April, 1999. I served for twenty years with combined active duty and Naval Reserve tours, at sea and on shore duty, at home and overseas.

I come before you this afternoon to request respectfully your attention and support for the many proposed bills that are affecting and will affect my fellow Connecticut veterans and me today and in the years ahead.

Last week, I received by email and read about fifty (50) proposed (and raised) bills before this committee and I implore all of you to review each bill closely and support all of these bills which are sensible and supportive of Connecticut's veterans who have selflessly served our great country, in time of peace and war.

Today, as a 58-year old attorney in private practice as a solo practitioner with a 5-year old son and 2-year old daughter, I am reminded on a daily basis by my wife that I have only about twenty-five more years of work ahead of me before the children are done with school and college and grad school that I am not allowed to imagine or even think about retirement today and for the next 25 years. Accordingly, of bills proposed for this session for veterans, I would like to highlight for the committee to take special note of the following proposed bills:

S.B. No. 201, An act eliminating occupational licensure fees for veterans

S.B. No. 202, An act concerning motor vehicle property tax exemption for veterans

S.B. No. 520, An act concerning military retirement pay

S.B. No. 526, An act providing an income tax exemption to members of the Armed Forces and veterans

H.B. No. 5952, An act establishing a preference in the award of state contracts for veteran-owned businesses

These bills are of special interest to me, but I would like to close by emphasizing that all of these bills are of great importance and assistance to all of my fellow Connecticut veterans. I ask that you consider the selfless sacrifices and separations that they and their families have endured during their service to our nation whether they served for one sea tour or a career of 20 years or more, whether they served in combat tours or under peacetime conditions in which the stress and pressures of military readiness and training are unlike anything that their civilian peers will ever have experienced. Today, my fellow veterans and I ask for your support.

Thank you for the opportunity to address your committee.